

Pontillas House - Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> '80

My dear Charlie,

I am quite tired with being so behind hand in my journal; & so made a desperate dash on I set up with the present time. For I see as much as I can write do at present will be to keep up with every day accounts. I have a good deal of writing to do for Dr. Jay, & I cannot devote all my time to writing it as so very unsocial.

I left the journal on board the steamer between Rotterdam & London, & on waking in the morning, <sup>the fog</sup> was so dense around us, that we were obliged, though just at the mouth of the Thames, to drop anchor & lie still. With hours counted in London it was very tiresome - and very irksome waiting for breakfast, for the fog to clear up - some tried to amuse themselves watching gun boats, which were floating in great numbers around us, & they caught some very large ones of the sunbrown fish, prettily marked with orange & purple - Others roared listlessly about until at length breakfast was announced. Afterward I tried to write a little, but it affected my head as when at sea, & I gave it up - after lying still 3 hours or more the fog cleared sufficiently to take our way again. I was still "brisky," so that we could not see quite satisfactorily - But I could see the points of historical, classical, & military interest, as they were pointed out. Tisbury fort, Woolwich, Greenwich, with its very fine improving Hospital in the quite distinct building, their ends quite on the river & topped in the centre with domes, Blackwall &c. &c. The river now so full of vessels as we went up. In some places it was astonishingly narrow, ~~where~~ <sup>where</sup> they are obliged to keep a channel open, & unobstructed, by stationary vessels, by row. The little little steamboats were dashing in & out in all directions. The Cambridge gentleman made himself exceedingly agreeable & he & Dr. Jay exchanged cards - He found he called himself Mr. William Thomson, which address I had not suspected - But all the tides are obliged to take orders - At length we reached our dock, & were all escorted into a ware house, where they were receiving luggage up into a room above to examine it - The passengers

...at all, and their way up into a gloomy little room with wooden  
seats round the wall & no ventilation, & here wait till their turn  
came. Unfortunately a steamer from Island had passed us &  
was before us, so they were examined first. First each person with a  
single sackage, then the others in the order of their names in the Cap-  
tain's book. We had to wait at least an hour! The baggage was not  
very carefully examined, when at length we were duly ushered up  
into the searching room, where were the officers. Sent it in the only  
place in all the world where the man who searched gave every thing  
to receive a bite & took one. Dr. Jay never offered one before. And this  
time only to hasten matters, for we were careful to take nothing eatable.  
At length at 4 o'clock or after, after driving 3 miles through streets  
crowded with carriages, carts, drays, omnibuses, &c. bordered by warehouses  
& shops most of the way, we reached our Hotel Golden Cross Charing X  
which I had thought was in the centre of London. London is an  
immense, vast place! And the noise & din was quite confusing  
after the quiet continental cities. After changing his dress & ordering  
dinner, Dr. Jay hastened to Dr. Booth to ask about the Lovells,  
& came back with the information that they were all in some sort  
Berkeley Sq. but that must signify ~~that~~ had been quite ill. So after  
our 1 o'clock dinner I put on my bonnet & we ran on then. We  
found our dear sister, Ella & Sarah - Mrs. L. Huskisson & Lizzie had  
gone to Cambridge - Aunt E. looked very pale & delicate & quite thin,  
but I am glad to say before she left London she looked very much  
better - We had abundance to talk about & consulted her about  
the next day's business.

Whitfield - 11th - 58

Dear Annie,

I am quite ashamed that my letter is  
so unfinished, but I have tried hard to get time, & it  
up an hour earlier this morning on purpose - But I  
wanted to finish my letter to grandfathers, & write a few  
not now, for slowly with me - Here we are at Mrs. Clive's  
the evening reception having been yesterday - Mrs. Clive  
sent her carriage for us Tuesday aft. & sends us some  
again this morning - We have had a charming time,  
& I have enjoyed it exceedingly - They are all very  
kind & amiable people & I was quite amazed at my-  
self to find Mrs. quite at home & fit -

Mrs. Bentham I like very much, she is so lady like  
& sweet & pleasant! And Mrs. Bentham too -  
I have got a little into the interior of English people  
& they are very cordial & agreeable.

Yesterday I got a letter from Sue, from Lizzie & Tom  
& from Nancy - Many many thanks for them all!  
I quite enjoyed the beach party. And amazed people  
here by saying you had peaches of the variety.

With most affectionate love to all  
& a great many apologies for such a vile little letter  
I am ever lovingly,  
Annie -